

PRESS RELEASE

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**ANOTHER MILWAUKEE LATIN KING
SENTENCED TO THIRTY YEARS IN PRISON
FOR ROLE IN LAC COURTE OREILLES DRUG CONSPIRACY**

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Florentino Castillo, DOB: 2/8/78, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Madison to thirty years in federal prison for his involvement with members of the Latin King Nation in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation (LCO) in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. In imposing the 360-month sentence, Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb gave the defendant a 38-month credit for the time he has already served on a 2002 crack cocaine conviction that was part of this drug conspiracy. Castillo's sentence will be served without the possibility of parole.

On December 12, 2005, a jury found Castillo guilty of the drug conspiracy following a one-week trial. In late 1998 and early 1999, Castillo, along with Milwaukee Latin King member Jorge Barragan, and Ernesto Estrada, started traveling to the LCO Reservation in Sawyer County to sell drugs. (Barragan was sentenced on March 30 to 30 years in prison; Estrada was sentenced on March 6 to 24 years and 4 months in prison). From early 2000 through the end of 2003, Castillo was involved in the

conspiracy as a source of cocaine and crack cocaine being sold on and around the LCO Reservation. Castillo also sold crack cocaine while living in the Hayward area during the Summer of 2002. Castillo's sentence was also increased because he was involved in trafficking guns for the Latin Kings at LCO.

Castillo is the 42nd defendant sentenced as a result of this long-term investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. In sentencing Castillo, Chief Judge Crabb stated that the 30-year sentence was warranted given his lengthy criminal record which clearly showed that Castillo had made a decision to be a career offender. Chief Judge Crabb stated that none of the prior sentences had deterred Castillo from selling drugs and that he had decided to continue as a gang member; she stated that he would now pay a heavy price for those decisions.

Donald Fairbanks is pending sentencing on May 9 following his guilty plea prior to the December 2005 trial. Two remaining defendants--Frank Crone and Genoveva Gonzalez--were indicted in late March for failing to appear as witnesses at the December 2005 jury trial. The Crone trial is scheduled for July 24 and the Gonzalez trial is scheduled for July 31; Chief Judge Crabb will preside over both trials.

The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John W. Vaudreuil and Laura Przybylinski Finn.

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